NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS
71 West 23rd Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10010 (212) 645-9677 info@ncuscr.org
Promoting Constructive Engagement | *40 Years from Ping Pong to the Present*

NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE REVOLUTIONARY

WITH

SIDNEY RITTENBERG AND IRV DRASNIN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2012
NEW YORK CITY

"Mao's call for a Cultural Revolution was answered by tens of millions of Chinese… and one American."

SEDONA
PTFF
The
REVOLUTIONARY
MAO'S CALL FOR A CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS ANSWERED BY TENS OF MILLIONS OF CHINESE...AND ONE AMERICAN

THE REVOLUTIONARY is a feature-length documentary film about the Maoist era and Sidney Rittenberg, an American who assumed an unprecedented role for a foreigner in Chinese politics.

As a college student in the American South of the 1930's, Rittenberg had taken up the cause of labor and of civil rights. He arrived in China as a GI at the end of World War II and stayed to join the communists in the civil war that brought Mao to power in 1949. He worked alongside the Party leadership in the politically important Broadcast Administration, in charge of the English-language section of Radio Beijing. He also was a trusted translator of Central Committee documents and of Mao's *Collected Works*. During his 34 years in China, beginning in Yan'an and lasting until the end of the Maoist era, Rittenberg was singled out as both a hero and a victim, hailed by Mao as "an international communist fighter" and later condemned by him as "an imperialist spy."

Rittenberg's personal account of China unfolds on the biggest revolutionary stage of the 20th century. In the process, it also reflects and embraces American impulses abroad: a story of idealism, and disillusionment, and critical self-examination. *The Revolutionary* is also about the limits of a foreigner's influence on events in distant lands whose history and culture are very different from his own, themes and issues still very much with us, as important now as they were then.

The Revolutionary, created over a five-year period, was produced by Irv Drasnin, Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers. Mr. Drasnin is also the writer, narrator, and interviewer for this documentary. Stourwater Pictures is an award-winning documentary production company that specializes in historical films.

We would like to thank ***The Starr Foundation*** *and* ***The Thornton Group*** *for their generous support of this program.*

(over)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS
71 West 23rd Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10010 (212) 645-9677 info@ncuscr.org
Promoting Constructive Engagement | *40 Years from Ping Pong to the Present*

NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

BIOGRAPHIES

SIDNEY RITTENBERG

Growing up in a prominent Jewish family in Charleston, South Carolina, Sidney Rittenberg attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was active in leftist political circles, advocating for labor and civil rights. He was drafted during World War II and sent to China following Chinese language study at Stanford University. Mr. Rittenberg decided to stay after the end of the war. He witnessed, and took part in, the development of modern China. He traveled to Yan'an, meeting Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and other Communist leaders, eventually becoming an intimate of the Party leadership and an active participant in the revolution and its aftermath. He got caught up in the intra-Party struggles of the Cultural Revolution, twice running afoul of the leadership, and serving a total of 16 years in solitary confinement. He returned to the United States in 1980 with his wife Yulin and their children. Since then Mr. Rittenberg has provided consulting services for large American corporations with interests in China.

IRV DRASNIN

Irv Drasnin's career in documentary filmmaking and broadcast journalism includes 35 years at CBS News and PBS where he covered domestic and foreign, historical and contemporary issues. His 31 documentaries include *Misunderstanding China* (1972), *Shanghai* (1974), *Looking for Mao* (1983), *China after Tiananmen* (1992), and now, *The Revolutionary*. Among his many awards are the DuPont-Columbia Award (twice), the Director's Guild, the Writer's Guild (twice), the American Film and Video Festival (twice) and Christopher awards (twice). For the American Academy of Achievement he interviewed Mikhail Gorbachev, Desmond Tutu, Colin Powell, Willie Mays, Wynton Marsalis, Alan Shephard, Steven Jay Gould, James Michener, John Wooden and George Lucas, among many others.

Mr. Drasnin taught in the documentary film program at Stanford. He holds a master's degree from Harvard in East Asian Studies with a specialization in China and a B.A. in political science from UCLA. He was a founding member of The China Council of the Asia Society and its co-chairman (1981-83).

UCLA Drasnin
DR200369

(over)